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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with arrangements adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981 (see A/36/540, annex), the Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on an annual basis on the management of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, indicating funds available, pledges and contributions received as well as disbursements from the Fund. This report has been prepared in accordance with the above-mentioned arrangements.

2. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/151 for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of humanitarian assistance, to individuals whose human rights had been severely violated as a result of torture and to the members of their families.

3. The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of a Chairman and four members with wide experience in the field of human rights, who serve in their personal capacity and are appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments.

4. The members of the Board of Trustees are Mr. Jaap Walkate (Chairman), Mrs. Elizabeth Odio Benito, Mr. Ribot Hatano, Mr. Ivan Tosevski and Mr. S. Amos Wako.

5. In its resolution 36/151 the General Assembly authorized the Board of Trustees of the Fund to promote and solicit contributions and pledges; it also appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to the Fund's requests for contributions.

6. In accordance with its programme of work set out in decision 48/431 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly adopts a resolution on the Fund in even years. In its resolution 47/109 of 16 December 1992, the latest resolution on the Fund, the General Assembly, alarmed at the widespread occurrence of torture and convinced that the struggle to eliminate torture included the provision of assistance to the victims and members of their families, expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Governments, organizations and individuals that had contributed to the Fund and to the Governments that had pledged a contribution to the Fund at the 1992 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. The General Assembly called upon all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for initial as well as further contributions to the Fund. It invited Governments to make contributions to the Fund, preferably on a regular basis, in order to enable the Fund to provide continuous support to projects that depended on recurrent grants. It requested the Secretary-General to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds were pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. It expressed its appreciation to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work which it had carried out and to the Secretary-General for the support given to the Board by carrying out its

decisions on an increasing number of projects. And it requested the Secretary-General to make use of all existing possibilities including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials, to assist the Board in its efforts to make the Fund and its humanitarian work better known and in its appeal for contributions.

II. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

7. In its resolution 1994/36 of 4 March 1994, 1/ the Commission on Human Rights appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually, before the meeting of the Board of Trustees. It also requested the Secretary-General to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of adequate staff for the operations of the Fund.

8. Thanks to the appeal by the Commission, reiterated by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights shortly before the meeting of the Board of Trustees to all Governments which had made pledges, almost all the amounts pledged for 1994 have already been received this year. At its thirteenth session the Board of Trustees had available $2.6 million, i.e. $500,000 more than in 1993.

III. THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

9. The Board of Trustees held its thirteenth session in Geneva from 17 to 27 May 1994. The Secretary-General is bringing to the attention of the General Assembly information transmitted to him on behalf of the Board by the Chairman, Mr. Jaap Walkate (see annex II), as well as the set of guidelines recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary-General (annex III). Annex V contains the press release issued at the end of the session, which stated that, on the recommendation of the Board, the Secretary-General had approved grants for 106 projects in 60 countries for the reintegration of tens of thousands of torture victims. During its session the Board was informed of a pledge by the United States of $1.5 million for 1994, which enabled it to recommend to the Secretary-General grants totalling $3.7 million.

10. In 1994 the Board had to deal with an unprecedented number of projects, 31 more than in 1993, representing requests for over $5 million. The new requests came mainly from organizations in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, while there is a downward trend in the number of new projects from Latin America.

11. The Board of Trustees confirmed the practice it had adopted in 1993 of providing less funding for studies on the question of torture and more for direct assistance to torture victims. Moreover, a new trend emerged at the last session: the Board is now encouraging projects concerned with legal assistance for the defence of torture victims' right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation in national courts. This official acknowledgement of their torture is in fact an essential stage in the psychological reintegration of torture victims.

12. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Fund secretariat, has responded to a greater number of emergency requests submitted either by individual torture victims or by organizations in financial difficulties, which were faced with the possibility of having to discontinue their activities. Five individuals and two organizations benefited in this way from the Fund's assistance under its emergency programme.

IV. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO INFORMATION

13. In accordance with the request made by the General Assembly in resolution 47/109, a leaflet entitled "How you can help victims of torture" was prepared in 1993 by the Fund secretariat, submitted to the Board of Trustees and revised according to the latter's recommendations, and thousands of copies were distributed. This leaflet has continued to be distributed in large numbers: to visitors to the Palais des Nations in Geneva, to participants in the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights in March 1994 in Geneva, and to participants in the meetings of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in August 1994. A Spanish and a French version of the leaflet have also been produced. The leaflet was recently updated to take into account information from the latest session of the Board of Trustees (see annex VI).

14. A grant application was approved by the Fund in 1991 for the production of a 52-minute film in French with English subtitles, intended for release in cinemas and for broadcast on television, dealing with torture, its after-effects and the therapy received by several victims who were treated at a torture-victims' assistance centre, the Association pour les victimes de la répression en exil (AVRE) (Association for Victims of Repression in Exile).

15. The Board of Trustees of the Fund and the members of the Committee against Torture viewed the film "Raisons d'Etat" in April 1992. The Board recommended funding the making of 15 copies of the film for loan to members of the Committee against Torture, to other United Nations human rights experts wishing to use the film for presentations on torture, to organizations concerned with human rights questions and to other interested institutions.

16. More recently an information kit on "Raisons d'Etat" and on opportunities to borrow a video-cassette copy of the film was distributed to all members of human rights experts bodies meeting in Geneva. All organizations receiving financing from the Fund and other bodies responsible for monitoring implementation of international conventions prohibiting torture have been informed by the Fund secretariat that the video cassette is available for borrowing.

17. The Secretary of the Fund took part in the fifth international symposium on torture and the medical profession, held in November 1993 in Buenos Aires by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and the Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial (EATIP) (Argentine Psychosocial Work and Research Group). This visit provided an opportunity to meet the managers of many projects financed by the Fund and obtain a considerable amount of information. Two presentations on the Fund were also organized in order to provide detailed information about the procedure for reporting on the use of

grants and to explain to new organizations how to submit an initial request. Some 10 new projects were in fact submitted to the Fund as a result of the symposium.

18. At the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), a non-governmental organization having category II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which has made regular voluntary contributions to the Fund, organized, with the help of the Fund secretariat, a briefing on the Fund's activities. The meeting coincided with the Commission's consideration of agenda item 10 (a) entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", under which the Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General. Approximately 15 representatives of non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting and asked questions about the criteria for selecting projects, the types of project approved and the financing of the Fund. Another meeting, to which the delegations attending the Commission's session were invited, was held on the same day. The purpose of the meeting was to make a presentation on the Fund's activities and to invite Governments in a position to do so to contribute or increase their contributions to the Fund. A public lecture on assistance to victims of torture was also organized by the Fund secretariat during the Commission's latest session in collaboration with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and the Copenhagen Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT). During the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in August 1994, the secretariat organized a further briefing on the Fund's activities for interested non-governmental organizations. Twenty such organizations attended and five indicated their intention to submit a project for assistance to torture victims.

V. FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

19. Subsequent to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session the following 32 Governments made voluntary contributions to the Fund between 4 November 1993 and 12 September 1994:

Government	Contribution (United States dollars)	Year	Contribution No.
Australia	6 212	for 1993	3rd
	3 592	for 1994	4th
Austria	10 000	for 1993	9th
	20 000	for 1994	10th
Belgium	84 033	for 1993	4th
Bhutan	1 000	for 1994	1st
Canada	19 668	for 1994	11th
Chile	2 000	for 1994	2nd
Costa Rica	10 000	for 1993	1st
Cyprus	500	for 1993	6th
Czech Republic	2 500	for 1994	1st
Denmark	151 347	for 1994	12th
Finland	182 017	for 1994	13th
France	86 956	for 1994	14th
	17 139	for 1994	15th
Germany	113 450	for 1993	11th
	119 170	for 1994	12th
Greece	5 000	for 1993	11th
	5 000	for 1994	12th
Hungary	500	for 1993	1st
	500	for 1994	2nd
Iceland	5 617	for 1993	8th
Ireland	30 080	for 1994	10th
Japan	100 000	for 1993	8th
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5 000	for 1993	2nd
Liechtenstein	6 591	for 1993	6th
	7 029	for 1994	7th
Luxembourg	2 786	for 1994	10th
Mauritius	999	for 1994	1st
Monaco	15 000	for 1994	1st
Netherlands	52 631	for 1992	11th
New Zealand	15 579	for 1994	9th
Norway	95 884	for 1994	9th
Spain	48 045	for 1994	9th
Sweden	247 142	for 1993	7th
	376 648	for 1994	8th
Switzerland	52 777	for 1993	7th
Uganda	737	for 1994	1st
United Kingdom	52 238	for 1993-1994	5th
United States of America	500 000	for 1994	10th

20. Austria doubled its 1993 contribution in 1994; Belgium increased its contribution by a factor of 8.5 over its last contribution in 1987. France contributed twice in 1994 in a total amount of $104,095. The second French contribution was a one-time grant of FF 1,180,000 to the Centre for Human Rights. In 1993 Indonesia more than doubled its contribution over its last contribution in 1988, which was $1,985 (see annex I). Ireland and the Netherlands also more than doubled their contributions for 1994. Sweden's contribution increased from SKr 1 million ($173,631) in 1992 to SKr 2 million ($247,142) in 1993 and then to SKr 3 million ($376,648) in 1994.

21. Bhutan, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Mauritius, Monaco and Uganda contributed for the first time.

22. Attention should also be drawn to the practice of the Committee against Torture of asking States, when they present their reports, whether they have contributed to the Fund and to do so or to increase their contribution.

23. The following individual contributions were received: FF 1,000 from Mr. O. Girardot (France), Sw F 25 from Mr. Herrera Anaya (Switzerland), $1,874 from Mrs. Rosalyn Higgins (United Kingdom), $25 from Mrs. Rita Maran (United States), $15 from Mrs. Ruth Hanning Roche (United States), Can$ 450 from Mrs. Ethel North (Canada), $50 from Mrs. Wolfe (United States), $35 from Mrs. Zuppirou (Switzerland) and $350 from an anonymous contributor.

24. There are no unpaid pledges dating from before 1994. As pointed out in paragraph 8, this is due to the appeal of the Commission on Human Rights to all Governments to contribute to the Fund before the meeting of the Board of Trustees and to the follow-up letter sent on 15 April by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to States which had made pledges, asking for them to be paid before 17 May 1994, the opening day of the Board's thirteenth session, so that they could be allocated and used in 1994. Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Norway complied with this request. The following pledges were outstanding as at 12 September 1994:

Algeria	US$ 219	for 1994	1 previous contribution
Netherlands	f. 200 000	for 1994	12 previous contributions
Sweden	SKr 3.5 million	for 1995	8 previous contributions
Tunisia	US$ 1 515	for 1994	4 previous contributions
United States	US$ 1.5 million, including US$ 500 000 paid on 18 August 1994	for 1994	9 previous contributions

25. Mention should be made of the donation by the Sharp Corporation of Geneva in May 1994 of the use of high-speed copiers, which in a few hours produced 15,000 photocopies for the sets of documents for the members of the Board of

Trustees at the thirteenth session; this saved the Fund secretariat three days of work during a very busy period and was equivalent to a voluntary contribution of about Sw F 2,000.

26. As stated in paragraph 8, the Fund had $2.6 million available and would have needed twice that amount to meet the stated needs in 1994. According to the information provided to the secretariat during the hearings in the Board of Trustees, the organizations providing assistance to torture victims estimate that the Fund should more than double its grants to provide assistance of about $6.5 million in 1995, as compared with a world-wide need estimated at $17 million. The increased needs are due to the growing awareness among victims and health professionals that torture victims need treatment and reintegration even several years after the act of torture and that they can still be helped. Accordingly, increasing numbers of existing and new victims are coming forward to request such help, and the number of treatment centres and programmes is growing. The fact that new sources of funding have appeared (European Communities, bilateral development aid) does not mean that the financing provided by the Fund should decrease; on the contrary, for other funding sources have disengaged themselves from several programmes in Latin America (long-term treatment of victims of acts of torture committed several years ago) and in Western Europe (aid programmes for refugee torture victims), and the Fund has made good this loss by increasing its grants to such programmes to keep them in operation.

VI. WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT

27. Between July 1993 and May 1994 the Fund secretariat had to process 60 per cent more applications than in the previous year; it was able to do this by employing temporary assistance for 10 months, as against 8 in 1993. It expects at least a similar increase in 1995.

28. By rationalizing their working methods the Fund secretariat and the Board of Trustees have been able to cope with the increased number of projects. In fact, during a similar period (8 working days) the Board was able to study information on 166 projects, as against 135 in 1993.

29. Furthermore, the information and briefings provided by the secretariat to organizations meant that the Board had to reject only 2 proposals out of 166. It was also possible to reduce the period for payment of grants recommended by the Board to one month in 1994, compared with two months in 1993 and four months in 1992, thanks to excellent cooperation among the various services.

30. Collaboration with United Nations agencies in the field, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), already effective in the past when the Fund secretariat sought additional information about a given project, has been even stronger in 1994. UNDP has been directly involved in the implementation of some projects, with the agreement of the managers, and a policy of coordination with UNHCR in the provision of assistance to refugee torture victims is gradually being established. This kind of cooperation is receiving increasing encouragement

from the Board of Trustees, which at its last session recommended collaboration in the field with a United Nations agency for about 15 projects.

VII. CONCLUSION

31. In order to cope with an ever-increasing demand for assistance which far exceeds the volume of contributions received, the number of contributions to the Fund must be substantially increased. There are cases which demonstrate that victims of torture continue to suffer after-effects for many years. Accordingly, even when torture has been eliminated, they will still have to be given assistance.

32. The grants paid by the Fund, in addition to providing organizations with indispensable financial support, enable them to seek additional funding, enhance the credibility of their assistance programmes in the eyes of torture victims, and provide a measure of protection for the personnel providing the assistance, who are sometimes subjected to heavy pressure, including threats of death or torture.

33. The existence of the Fund is a constant reminder to all Governments that assistance to direct victims and to indirect ones (members of the families of tortured persons) will remain responsibility of States until torture has finally been eliminated, in accordance with the obligations contained in many international instruments of the United Nations relating to the prohibition of torture.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

ANNEX I

Contributions and pledges by Governments from February 1982 to September 1994

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
Algeria	1	US$	219.30 b/	(03.11.93)	(for 1994)	DA 5 000
Argentina	1	US$	5 000.00	(06.07.88)	(for 1988)	
	2	US$	4 000.00	(13.02.89)	(for 1989)	
	3	US$	4 000.00	(15.11.91)	(for 1990)	
	4	US$	2 996.00	(15.11.91)	(for 1991)	
Australia	1	US$	12 816.00	(18.12.84)	(for 1984)	$A 15 000
	2	US$	3 573.00	(17.02.88)	(for 1988)	
	3	US$	6 212.30	(30.11.93)	(for 1993)	
	4	US$	3 592.00	(18.05.94)	(for 1994)	
Austria	1	US$	5 000.00	(19.12.85)	(for 1985)	
	2	US$	5 000.00	(16.10.86)	(for 1986)	
	3	US$	5 000.00	(15.10.87)	(for 1987)	
	4	US$	5 000.00	(09.03.88)	(for 1988)	
	5	US$	5 000.00	(21.02.89)	(for 1989)	
	6	US$	5 000.00	(22.02.90)	(for 1990)	
	7	US$	6 000.00	(21.10.91)	(for 1991)	
	8	US$	10 000.00	(19.10.92)	(for 1992)	
	9	US$	10 000.00	(28.10.93)	(for 1993)	
	10	US$	20 000.00	(24.05.94)	(for 1994)	
Belgium	1	US$	10 000.00	(21.02.85)	(for 1984)	
	2	US$	10 000.00	(02.02.87)	(for 1986)	
	3	US$	10 000.00	(30.03.88)	(for 1987)	
	4	US$	84 033.00	(23.12.93)	(for 1993)	BF 3 000 000
Bhutan	1	US$	1 000.00	(18.01.94)	(for 1993)	
Brazil	1	US$	5 000.00	(17.06.85)	(for 1985)	
	2	US$	5 000.00	(21.11.86)	(for 1986)	
	3	US$	5 000.00	(01.08.88)	(for 1988)	
	4	US$	5 000.00	(26.04.93)	(for 1992)	
Cameroon	1	US$	1 113.77	(09.08.84)	(for 1984)	
	2	US$	1 344.90	(15.04.96)	(for 1986)	
	3	US$	1 227.21	(29.09.89)	(for 1989)	

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
Canada	1	US$	7 932.00	(23.11.83)	(for 1983)	Can$ 10 000
	2	US$	7 633.59	(12.12.84)	(for 1984)	10 000
	3	US$	36 496.35	(15.04.85)	(for 1985)	50 000
	4	US$	7 103.00	(25.02.86)	(for 1986)	10 000
	5	US$	7 692.00	(14.04.87)	(for 1987)	10 000
	6	US$	24 390.00	(15.04.88)	(for 1988)	30 000
	7	US$	25 200.62	(30.03.89)	(for 1989)	
	8	US$	25 031.73	(08.03.90)	(for 1990)	
	9	US$	26 652.41	(20.11.91)	(for 1991)	
	10	US$	24 939.73	(08.06.92)	(for 1992)	
	11	US$	19 668.55	(30.03.94)	(for 1994)	
Chile	1	US$	2 000.00	(16.02.93)	(for 1991)	
	2	US$	2 000.00	(11.05.94)	(for 1994)	
Costa Rica	1	US$	10 000.00	(05.94)	(for 1994)	
Cyprus	1	US$	500.00	(19.08.82)	(for 1982)	
	2	US$	200.00	(29.09.83)	(for 1983)	
	3	US$	250.00	(11.04.84)	(for 1984)	
	4	US$	300.00	(23.12.86)	(for 1986)	
	5	US$	500.00	(23.12.92)	(for 1992)	
	6	US$	500.00	(23.12.93)	(for 1993)	
Czech Republic	1	US$	2 500.00	(31.01.94)	(for 1994)	
Denmark	1	US$	114 600.05	(27.09.82)	(for 1982)	
	2	US$	104 783.36	(05.04.84)	(for 1984)	
	3	US$	93 187.96	(25.04.85)	(for 1985)	DKr 1 000 000
	4	US$	120 402.14	(21.03.86)	(for 1986)	1 000 000
	5	US$	155 050.78	(04.03.88)	(for 1987)	
	6	US$	139 489.47	(30.08.88)	(for 1988)	1 000 000
	7	US$	127 534.75	(30.05.89)	(for 1989)	
	8	US$	173 430.45	(31.10.90)	(for 1990)	
	9	US$	152 068.13	(30.10.91)	(for 1991)	
	10	US$	168 661.73	(29.10.92)	(for 1992)	
	11	US$	152 493.77	(13.07.93)	(for 1993)	
	12	US$	151 347.41	(10.06.94)	(for 1994)	

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
Finland	1	US$	81 729.02	(05.01.83)	(for 1982)	Fmk 450 000
	2	US$	52 576.24	(22.09.83)	(for 1983)	
	3	US$	75 936.55	(26.06.84)	(for 1984)	
	4	US$	87 596.36	(11.10.85)	(for 1985)	
	5	US$	104 304.95	(09.06.86)	(for 1986)	550 000
	6	US$	134 048.26	(01.04.87)	(for 1987)	600 000
	7	US$	154 922.54	(19.01.88)	(for 1988)	
	8	US$	153 773.36	(14.04.89)	(for 1989)	
	9	US$	171 198.39	(25.04.90)	(for 1990)	680 000
	10	US$	174 640.70	(07.05.91)	(for 1991)	700 000
	11	US$	180 230.13	(06.07.92)	(for 1992)	
	12	US$	170 863.71	(14.04.93)	(for 1993)	
	13	US$	182 017.14	(27.04.94)	(for 1994)	
France	1	US$	19 480.52	(24.06.83)	(for 1983)	FF 150 000
	2	US$	20 496.89	(12.04.84)	(for 1984)	165 000
	3	US$	26 315.78	(08.05.85)	(for 1985)	
	4	US$	37 593.98	(07.10.86)	(for 1986)	
	5	US$	40 650.40	(27.08.87)	(for 1987)	
	6	US$	18 518.52	(01.02.88)	(for 1987)	100 000
	7	US$	76 271.18	(09.01.89)	(for 1988)	
	8	US$	32 154.00	(15.03.89)	(for 1989)	200 000
	9	US$	43 478.26	(08.01.90)	(for 1989)	
	10	US$	47 619.04	(03.10.90)	(for 1990)	
	11	US$	55 555.55	(24.12.91)	(for 1991)	
	12	US$	56 603.77	(20.07.92)	(for 1992)	300 000
	13	US$	88 495.57	(02.04.93)	(for 1993)	
	14	US$	86 956.52	(24.03.94)	(for 1994)	
	15	US$	17 139.86	(08.04.94)	(for 1994)	
Germany	1	US$	54 106.70	(27.12.83)	(for 1983)	DM 150 000
	2	US$	64 277.68	(14.12.84)	(for 1984)	200 000
	3	US$	79 032.64	(09.12.85)	(for 1985)	200 000
	4	US$	99 216.19	(22.12.86)	(for 1986)	200 000
	5	US$	119 688.81	(10.12.87)	(for 1987)	200 000
	6	US$	114 943.00	(19.12.88)	(for 1988)	200 000
	7	US$	112 549.24	(07.12.89)	(for 1989)	200 000
	8	US$	135 749.68	(14.12.90)	(for 1990)	200 000
	9	US$	126 103.49	(29.11.91)	(for 1991)	200 000
	10	US$	126 223.00	(24.11.92)	(for 1992)	200 000
	11	US$	113 450.29	(01.12.93)	(for 1993)	194 000
	12	US$	119 170.48	(05.05.94)	(for 1994)	200 000

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
Greece	1	US$	5 000.00	(04.10.83)	(for 1983)	
	2	US$	5 000.00	(11.12.84)	(for 1984)	
	3	US$	5 000.00	(05.05.85)	(for 1985)	
	4	US$	5 000.00	(30.06.86)	(for 1986)	
	5	US$	5 000.00	(21.04.87)	(for 1987)	
	6	US$	5 000.00	(12.04.88)	(for 1988)	
	7	US$	5 000.00	(10.03.89)	(for 1989)	
	8	US$	5 000.00	(14.11.90)	(for 1990)	
	9	US$	5 000.00	(16.04.93)	(for 1991)	
	10	US$	5 000.00	(16.04.93)	(for 1992)	
	11	US$	5 000.00	(05.05.94)	(for 1993)	
	12	US$	5 000.00	(05.05.94)	(for 1994)	
Haiti	1	US$	186.00	(05.01.89)	(for 1989)	
Holy See	1	US$	1 000.00	(22.04.88)	(1988)	
Hungary	1	US$	500.00	(31.12.93)	(for 1993)	
	2	US$	500.00	(02.06.94)	(for 1994)	
Indonesia	1	US$	1 985.87	(20.07.88)	(for 1988)	
	2	US$	5 000.00	(20.04.93)	(for 1993)	
Iceland	1	US$	2 000.00	(02.12.86)	(for 1986)	
	2	US$	2 000.00	(02.12.87)	(for 1987)	
	3	US$	2 000.00	(11.05.89)	(for 1988)	
	4	US$	2 300.00	(08.03.90)	(for 1989)	
	5	US$	2 410.00	(31.01.91)	(for 1990)	
	6	US$	4 267.00	(28.01.92)	(for 1991)	
	7	US$	5 350.00	(28.08.92)	(for 1992)	
	8	US$	5 617.00	(30.12.93)	(for 1993)	
	9	US$	3 491.13	(18.05.94)	(for 1994)	
Ireland	1	US$	5 690.00	(30.04.84)	(for 1984)	
	2	US$	7 080.50	(18.04.85)	(for 1985)	
	3	US$	10 872.00	(21.04.86)	(for 1986)	
	4	US$	8 940.00	(16.06.87)	(for 1987)	
	5	US$	3 207.00	(13.01.88)	(for 1988)	
	6	US$	2 858.00	(08.02.89)	(for 1989)	
	7	US$	3 572.40	(14.05.91)	(for 1991)	
	8	US$	5 815.25	(04.02.92)	(for 1992)	
	9	US$	14 805.00	(07.04.93)	(for 1993)	
	10	US$	30 080.00	(26.07.94)	(for 1994)	

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
Italy	1	US$	100 000.00	(16.06.87)	(for 1987)	
	2	US$	30 000.00	(23.05.91)	(for 1990)	
	3	US$	30 000.00	(16.01.92)	(for 1991)	
	4	US$	30 000.00	(23.12.92)	(for 1992)	
	5	US$	30 000.00	(02.08.92)	(for 1993)	
Japan	1	US$	50 000.00	(19.08.86)	(for 1986)	
	2	US$	50 000.00	(23.10.87)	(for 1987)	
	3	US$	50 000.00	(24.06.88)	(for 1988)	
	4	US$	50 000.00	(27.12.89)	(for 1989)	
	5	US$	50 000.00	(30.04.91)	(for 1990)	
	6	US$	50 000.00	(31.01.92)	(for 1991)	
	7	US$	100 000.00	(18.02.93)	(for 1992)	
	8	US$	100 000.00	(14.01.94)	(for 1993)	
Jordan	1	US$	1 000.00	(10.02.84)	(for 1984)	
Kenya	1	US$	400.00	(24.04.85)	(for 1985)	
	2	US$	500.00	(23.04.87)	(for 1987)	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	US$	5 000.00	(03.08.88)	(for 1988)	
	2	US$	5 000.00	(05.10.93)	(for 1993)	
Liechtenstein	1	US$	2 286.00	(05.04.84)	(for 1984)	Sw F 5 000
	2	US$	2 985.58	(15.08.86)	(for 1986)	5 000
	3	US$	3 597.00	(08.04.88)	(for 1988)	5 000
	4	US$	7 901.00	(01.04.92)	(for 1991)	10 000
	5	US$	6 438.00	(27.05.93)	(for 1992)	10 000
	6	US$	6 591.00	(10.12.93)	(for 1993)	10 000
	7	US$	7 029.88	(23.04.94)	(for 1994)	
Luxembourg	1	US$	2 019.84	(05.04.83)	(for 1983)	
	2	US$	1 835.03	(17.11.83)	(for 1983)	Lux F 100 000
	3	US$	900.36	(24.05.84)	(for 1984)	
	4	US$	1 681.00	(13.08.84)	(for 1984)	
	5	US$	1 421.80	(09.10.86)	(for 1986)	60 000
	6	US$	1 102.71	(20.11.87)	(for 1987)	
	7	US$	2 917.15	(15.05.90)	(for 1990)	
	8	US$	2 959.42	(19.05.92)	(for 1991)	
	9	US$	3 017.60	(23.04.93)	(for 1992)	100 000
	10	US$	2 785.71	(20.12.93)	(for 1994)	100 000
Malta	1	US$	300.00	(01.03.89)	(for 1989)	
Mauritius	1	US$	999.31	(21.01.94)	(for 1994)	

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
Monaco	1	US$	15 000.00	(06.07.94)	(for 1994)	
Netherlands	1	US$	45 000.00	(06.07.82)	(for 1982)	
	2	US$	50 000.00	(07.05.84)	(for 1984)	
	3	US$	14 415.00	(18.04.85)	(for 1984)	f. 50 000
	4	US$	46 335.00	(04.09.85)	(for 1985)	150 000
	5	US$	44 799.38	(06.06.86)	(for 1986)	115 000
	6	US$	121 012.46	(28.11.86)	(for 1986)	
	7	US$	50 308.14	(22.12.88)	(for 1988)	
	8	US$	40 521.72	(22.12.89)	(for 1989)	8 000
	9	US$	26 805.66	(26.12.90)	(for 1990)	45 000
	10	US$	54 990.69	(12.12.91)	(for 1991)	100 000
	11	US$	52 631.58	(01.03.94)	(for 1992)	100 000
	12	US$	115 606.94	(01.03.94)	(for 1993)	200 000
	13	US$	106 382.98 b/	(03.11.93)	(for 1994)	200 000
New Zealand	1	US$	13 400.00	(14.02.86)	(for 1986)	$NZ 25 000
	2	US$	15 610.00	(27.02.87)	(for 1987)	
	3	US$	20 040.00	(05.02.88)	(for 1988)	30 000
	4	US$	18 420.00	(17.03.89)	(for 1989)	
	5	US$	17 685.00	(14.03.90)	(for 1990)	
	6	US$	17 676.00	(29.05.91)	(for 1991)	30 000
	7	US$	27 494.00	(22.05.92)	(for 1992)	
	8	US$	15 957.00	(25.05.93)	(for 1993)	
	9	US$	15 579.00	(16.05.94)	(for 1994)	
Norway	1	US$	100 000.00	(02.03.82)	(for 1982)	
	2	US$	136 967.54	(24.10.83)	(for 1983)	NKr 1 million
	3	US$	5 000.00	(14.11.86)	(for 1986)	
	4	US$	50 000.00	(12.02.87)	(for 1987)	
	5	US$	75 000.00	(30.12.88)	(for 1988)	
	6	US$	99 985.00	(06.05.91)	(for 1991)	
	7	US$	74 985.00	(31.12.92)	(for 1992)	
	8	US$	99 973.48	(20.07.93)	(for 1993)	
	9	US$	95 884.69	(25.05.94)	(for 1994)	
Republic of Korea	1	US$	5 000.00	(29.12.88)	(for 1988)	
	2	US$	5 000.00	(22.12.89)	(for 1989)	
San Marino	1	US$	2 117.31	(28.02.84)	(1983)	Lit 3 500 000
	2	US$	2 258.93	(24.08.84)	(1984)	4 000 000
Senegal	1	US$	186.00	(01.01.87)	(1987)	

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
Spain	1	US$	13 176.09	(25.04.86)	(for 1986)	Ptas 2 000 000
	2	US$	19 196.65	(07.04.87)	(for 1987)	
	3	US$	22 304.50	(31.03.88)	(for 1988)	
	4	US$	34 884.88	(13.03.89)	(for 1989)	
	5	US$	36 730.27	(14.03.90)	(for 1990)	
	6	US$	34 798.64	(22.08.91)	(for 1991)	
	7	US$	67 187.52	(19.03.92)	(for 1992)	
	8	US$	58 500.75	(30.03.93)	(for 1993)	
	9	US$	48 045.46	(24.02.94)	(for 1994)	
Sri Lanka	1	US$	500.00	(25.04.88)	(for 1988)	
	2	US$	500.00	(12.02.91)	(for 1990)	
	3	US$	500.00	(12.02.91)	(for 1991)	
	4	US$	500.00	(08.03.93)	(for 1992)	
Sweden	1	US$	150 000.00	(14.06.82)	(for 1982)	
	2	US$	60 790.27	(16.01.84)	(for 1984)	
	3	US$	72 020.16	(31.10.86)	(for 1986)	
	4	US$	95 655.64	(01.07.88)	(for 1988)	
	5	US$	169 097.00	(29.11.91)	(for 1991)	SKr 1 000 000
	6	US$	173 631.46	(20.02.92)	(for 1992)	1 000 000
	7	US$	247 142.42	(13.10.93)	(for 1993)	2 000 000
	8	US$	376 647.83	(22.10.93)	(for 1994)	3 000 000
	9	US$	453 368.00 a/	(16.06.94)	(for 1995)	3 500 000
Switzer-land	1	US$	68 540.10	(03.01.84)	(for 1984)	Sw F 150 000
	2	US$	92 165.90	(30.10.86)	(for 1986)	150 000
	3	US$	32 258.06	(01.03.89)	(for 1989)	50 000
	4	US$	15 748.03	(18.01.91)	(for 1990)	20 000
	5	US$	25 925.93	(15.01.92)	(for 1991)	35 000
	6	US$	46 357.62	(06.01.93)	(for 1992)	70 000
	7	US$	52 777.78	(23.12.93)	(for 1993)	76 000
Togo	1	US$	1 540.43	(15.03.89)	(for 1989)	
Tunisia	1	US$	1 298.70	(16.05.91)	(for 1991)	D 1 000
	2	US$	1 298.70	(16.04.92)	(for 1992)	1 000
	3	US$	1 948.00	(15.04.92)	(for 1993)	1 500
	4	US$	1 753.24	(09.06.93)	(for 1993, supplemental)	
	5	US$	1 515.00 b/	(03.11.93)	(for 1994)	1 500
Uganda	1	US$	737.00	(19.07.94)	(for 1994)	

State	Contr. No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/ paid	Contr. year	Equivalent in local currency
United Kingdom	1	US$	12 445.00	(02.10.84)	(1985 + 86)	£ 10 000
	2	US$	41 987.50	(20.05.87)	(1987 + 88)	25 000
	3	US$	50 733.00	(15.02.90)	(1989 + 90)	25 000
	4	US$	42 006.58	(24.09.91)	(1991 + 92)	25 000
	5	US$	52 238.81	(15.02.94)	(1993 + 94)	35 000
United States of America	1	US$	100 000.00	(01.10.85)	(for 1985)	
	2	US$	86 000.00	(01.02.87)	(for 1986)	
	3	US$	86 000.00	(01.06.87)	(for 1987)	
	4	US$	90 000.00	(18.02.92)	(for 1988)	
	5	US$	100 000.00	(18.02.92)	(for 1989)	
	6	US$	100 000.00	(18.02.92)	(for 1990)	
	7	US$	100 000.00	(18.02.92)	(for 1991)	
	8	US$	97 000.00 c/	(23.12.92)	(for 1992)	
	9	US$	500 000.00	(29.03.93)	(for 1993)	
	10	US$	1 500 000.00 c/	(20.05.94)	(for 1994)	US$ 500 000 paid on 18.08.94
Yugoslavia	1	US$	5 000.00	(18.12.90)	(for 1980)	

a/ Pledge.

b/ Pledge made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities in New York in November 1993.

c/ US$ 99,000 pledged for 1992.

ANNEX II

Activities of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Information provided by the Chairman of the Board

1. The developments taking place in the world over the past few years have led to an ever-increasing number of refugees and victims of torture. The centres for treatment of such victims have been confronted over the past year with much larger numbers of persons seeking medical help and economic, social and financial assistance. Therefore, the Board of Trustees has been seized with several requests for higher amounts of money. At its thirteenth session, held at Geneva from 17 to 27 May 1994, the Board dealt with requests for assistance totalling more than $5 million and faced the necessity of having to limit its recommendations for grants by the Secretary-General to half of the amounts requested.

2. The Board very much appreciated that a few weeks before the session, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights sent a letter to regular donor Governments and to those who had made pledges, asking them to pay their contributions for the current year before the thirteenth session, thereby enabling the Board to take into consideration an additional amount of $1.8 million (69 per cent of the amount available at the 1st meeting of the thirteenth session) when recommending grants. The Board recommended that similar action be taken next year.

3. Although the financial situation of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture has improved this year thanks to the positive replies of several Governments to the fund-raising campaign launched in 1992 by the Board of Trustees, at its thirteenth session the Board insisted that additional resources were still needed to meet a growing demand totalling more than $5 million in 1994 (see annex V).

4. During its thirteenth session, the Board of Trustees of the Fund examined information prepared by the secretariat concerning 166 projects, including analyses of narrative reports, financial reports and audits on the use of grants made in previous years, as well as requests for continuing assistance and new projects. The Board also scrutinized 114 applications for grants and heard 111 representatives of organizations implementing 48 projects.

5. The Board of Trustees recommended that 109 grants be made from the Fund in 60 countries for the partial funding of 106 projects to relieve the suffering of the tens of thousands of victims by obtaining for them medical or psychological support, opportunities for social or economic reintegration, and legal or financial assistance involving expenditures of approximately $2.6 million for 1994.

6. During its session, the Board learned of a pledge by the United States of $1.5 million. This enabled it to make additional recommendations, bringing the total amount for expenditures to $3.7 million.

7. The Board recommended that only two applications for grants be declared inadmissible because they were outside the Fund's mandate or because further particulars were needed. The Board also recommended that 27 files of terminated projects be closed.

8. As in the past, the focus of the Board's latest recommendations is on supporting programmes providing direct medical, psychological, social or other assistance to torture victims and members of their families. The Board has also made recommendations for support to training programmes for health professionals of several countries on the techniques of treatment of victims of torture, as well as for meetings of health professionals, at which they could exchange their experience.

9. The Board requested the Fund secretariat to compile the guidelines it had adopted since its ninth session, including those adopted at its thirteenth session (see annex III).

10. The Board of Trustees would welcome discussions between the Fund secretariat, the members of the Board and United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as with other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations. The discussions should deal with the criteria for financing projects, monitoring of grants made and requests for further particulars where needed for some projects.

11. The Board very much appreciated the contribution of the Sharp Corporation, Geneva, which had provided services free of charge, allowing the secretariat of the Fund to make 15,000 copies on time for the thirteenth session. It encouraged new initiatives by the secretariat aiming at facilitating the work of the staff of the Fund and obtaining voluntary contributions from the private sector.

12. The Board took note of the fact that the secretariat of the Fund had had to analyse 60 per cent more projects in 1994, expressed its continuous concern for the staffing of the secretariat of the Fund and, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/36 of 4 March 1994, requested the Secretary-General to ensure, within the overall budgetary framework of the United Nations, the provision of adequate staff and computer equipment for the operations of the Fund. The Board very much appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to obtain temporary assistance for 10 months for the analysis of an increasing number of projects. While aware of the financial crisis the Secretariat was facing, the Board expressed the wish that special measures might be taken to secure the positions of the staff of the Fund. The Board also noted with pleasure that the request made in previous years concerning adequate computer equipment had begun to be met.

13. The Board expressed its appreciation for the support given to the Board by the secretariat in carrying out its recommendations on an unprecedented number

of projects as well as for the efforts made by the Assistant Secretary-General in appealing for contributions.

14. The Board very much appreciated its meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its last session and, in particular, his proposal to send letters to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States which had not yet contributed to the Fund inviting them to do so and to States that were already donors seeking an increase in contributions.

ANNEX III

Compilation of guidelines prepared by the Fund

Provisional set of procedures and guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees

INTRODUCTION

1. With an increasing number of contributions and requests for assistance, the highest standards should be applied to procedures followed by the Board and the Fund secretariat. Accordingly, at its ninth session, in 1990, the Board decided to start reviewing its own procedures and the guidelines for applications for grants. The following guidelines and procedures were recommended by the Fund's Board of Trustees at its ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth sessions and approved by the Secretary-General.

2. The Board established that, in order to be able to examine the work of the secretariat on the projects approved, the new projects received, the grants disbursed or pending, the narrative, financial and auditor's reports received, and to make recommendations to the Secretary-General on grants to be disbursed, it should meet, as a rule, for eight working days.

3. The Board recommended that it should meet in principle in April of each year, starting in April 1991. Part of its session should be scheduled to coincide with part of the session of the Committee against Torture in order to be able to organize a meeting with the chairperson and members as well as with the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture.

4. By 1 April of each year, the Board should be informed of the exact amount of funds available, grants recommended, grants disbursed and pledges made.

5. As in the past, the focus of the Board is on supporting programmes providing direct medical, psychological, legal, social or other assistance to torture victims and their family members. The Board insisted that the highest possible proportion of the money available to the Fund should be spent for assistance to victims of torture and their families.

6. The Board also made recommendations in support of training programmes for health professionals from different countries on the techniques for treating victims of torture, at which they could compare their experiences.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

7. Applications for grants for legal assistance in support of the right of victims of torture to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation will be favourably reviewed by the Board. Organizations should indicate whether the courts provide free legal assistance in support of victims' claims.

8. Applications to hold and attend seminars and conferences should be made well in advance in order for the Board to consider them at its annual session, and, if appropriate, attach conditions to the award of a grant. A follow-up activity, such as publication of the proceedings and documents of such meetings, is a standard condition.

9. At its tenth session, the Board discussed the possibility of setting a ceiling on funding for such projects. A proposal for a maximum amount of $30,000 was made.

10. The Fund secretariat should prepare, for reference purposes, a list of all meetings financed by the Fund, indicating the regions where they took place, the type of conference and the outcome of such assistance for the treatment of victims of torture.

11. As a rule, the Board does not recommend setting up a new organization with money from the Fund.

12. As a rule, no project should depend on the Fund for more than a third of the project budget.

13. As a rule, the Fund does not underwrite projects through another fund, in order to prevent any of the disbursed funds from being withheld and to retain control over the use of the funds.

14. As a rule, the Board does not consider any new grant application without first receiving, well in advance of the session in question, satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of all previous grants.

15. New grant applications must be submitted before 31 December at the latest.

16. The Board does not consider projects received immediately before or during its annual session.

17. If the same organization presents similar projects, they should preferably be merged, for instance, with the first one submitted to the Fund.

18. The Fund secretariat should ask the organizations or persons receiving grants to give precise details of their bank account.

19. Application forms for presenting a project to the Fund should be inserted in the revised fact sheets on torture to be published and widely disseminated.

II. REPORTING ON THE USE OF GRANTS

20. Narrative and financial reports must be submitted by 31 December at the latest, on a provisional basis where necessary. If final reports cannot be provided by that date, an interim report must be sent. The fact that the accounts have not been audited should not prevent the submission of the financial reports.

21. As a rule, the Board should terminate projects for which it has not received satisfactory reports within one year from the last communication from the secretariat. In such cases, it should request repayment of the grant. If this repayment request has not been satisfied within the time-limits set by the Board, the latter should not consider any new applications from the organization in question.

22. The Fund secretariat should request organizations to indicate the total amount of their budgets or provisional budgets, the use made of grants received from the Fund and the amount of money requested from the Fund. The organizations should state these figures in both local currency and United States dollars, and should indicate the date of the exchange rate used. In the tables prepared for the Board at its annual session, the Fund secretariat should indicate the exchange rate applied by the United Nations during the month of receipt.

23. The Fund secretariat should request organizations to indicate the number of patients treated free of charge and the number of those paying for the services received, together with the percentage they paid.

24. Provided they can do so without endangering the victim and his or her family, all organizations should endeavour to provide medical certificates or other reports on interviews with torture victims in order to establish that the person in question has been tortured. The victim's name should not be mentioned. If an organization treats a significant number of torture victims, a table should be prepared detailing, inter alia, the kinds of torture suffered, and the kinds of medical, psychological and other treatment given. Upon request, the Fund secretariat may provide interested organizations with sample certificates, reporting forms and tables.

25. Information on certain projects may be requested from field officers and representatives of agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). If these officials agree to visit an organization and give their opinion on the project in question, the Fund secretariat shall inform the organization concerned in advance. Where necessary, the Board shall recommend that the Fund secretariat inform the local representatives of United Nations institutions of grants to projects in their areas of competence so that these institutions are aware of the Fund's relationship with the organizations in charge of the projects. The Fund secretariat shall inform the project manager of this action.

26. New organizations should be requested to mention any organizations or persons supporting their projects in their project description forms. The Fund secretariat should prepare a list of internationally recognized organizations and persons in the field of treatment of victims of torture that may be consulted by the Board and the secretariat of the Fund.

27. Once a year, for example, Board members, the above-mentioned internationally recognized persons or the Fund secretariat must be able to visit problem projects within their region and meet with staff members of the organization implementing these projects in order better to understand and evaluate the work done and planned. The Fund secretariat must give the

organization concerned advance notice of such visits. A concise but detailed report must be prepared and circulated to the members of the Board.

28. The Board encourages contacts with project managers, especially when they are submitting a grant application to the Fund for the first time. The Board secretariat should invite these managers, as well as the managers of problem projects, to appear before it. Travel expenses may not be charged to either the United Nations or the Fund.

29. The Fund secretariat should draft a specimen form to help organizations to prepare their financial reports on the use of the grants awarded by the Fund.

30. All organizations sponsoring projeots and receiving support from the Fund should be requested to seek other financial sources, since the Board feels that they should not become totally dependent on the Fund (see para. 12). They should be told that they cannot expect their grants to be renewed automatically and that a new application must be submitted each year.

31. All organizations having received grants should be reminded that they are required to submit auditors' reports on their use. The Fund secretariat should insist on systematic submission of financial reports but require audit reports only on an ad hoc basis.

32. If a project manager fails to submit any narrative, financial or audit reports for some time without providing a valid explanation, the Fund secretariat should seek reimbursement of the amounts received.

33. When possible, the Fund secretariat should reorganize the files and lists in order to group a single organization's projects together in a single file. However, organizations shall still be required to provide detailed information on each project and subproject.

III. COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES CONCERNING TORTURE

34. As suggested by Mr. Peter Kooijmans, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, rapporteurs and staff members going on mission should be supplied with Fund project description forms so that they can be distributed directly to interested organizations.

35. The Fund secretariat, in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee and other relevant organs, and with the assistance of the Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Committee against Torture, should draft a reference text defining direct or indirect victims of torture for the Board. It should address the following questions in preparing this document: Should the definition of victims of torture be broadened or narrowed? What are the kinds of psychological torture? What is the relationship between torture and corporal punishment, on the one hand, and enforced or involuntary disappearances, on the other? Between the death penalty and the conditions under which this sentence

may be applied? Between harsh detention conditions and massive violations of human rights?

36. The Board has requested and obtained the cooperation of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Chairman of the Committee against Torture concerning access to non-confidential information available in their files, which it may use to improve its understanding of the situation in certain countries and the work of certain organizations.

37. After discussions with the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Chairman of the Committee against Torture and representatives of organizations carrying out projects, the Board concluded that making States aware of the importance that punishing the torturers has for the rehabilitation of the victims was crucial to obtaining positive results in the psychological treatment of direct and indirect victims of torture.

IV. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

38. During inter-sessional periods, the Chairman may authorize emergency grants of up to $10,000 per request. For requests over $10,000 (but not exceeding $50,000), he shall seek, through the services of the Fund secretariat, the opinion of at least two other members of the Board. It has been recommended that $100,000 should be set aside for this purpose.

39. In considering requests for emergency assistance, preference should be given to assistance distributed "through established channels of assistance", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981.

40. In emergency cases, if an application that should be referred to the Board requires urgent action before its next session, the Chairman, acting in conjunction with the Fund secretariat, may take any necessary measures.

41. If additional emergency cases are brought to the attention of the Fund secretariat, the latter should refer them to the nearest specialized organizations, especially if the organization receives financing from the Fund.

42. Once a case is no longer an emergency, it should be removed from the list.

V. PUBLICITY

43. In view of the relatively critical financial situation of the Fund, more publicity about torture and its consequences is needed to arouse the interest of the general public and appeal to its generosity. Moreover, it is recommended that a special brochure on the Fund should be published for those interested in applying for assistance from the Fund and those wishing to contribute to it.

VI. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUNDS

44. The Board recommends that pledges should be made in United States dollars.

ANNEX IV

Fact sheet

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Established: Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981 for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of humanitarian assistance, to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of torture and to their relatives.

Administered: In accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five members with wide experience in the field of human rights, acting in their personal capacity and appointed by the Secretary-General. The membership of the Board of Trustees is as follows: Mr. Jaap Walkate, Chairman (Netherlands), Ms. Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica), Mr. Ribot Hatano (Japan), Mr. Ivan Tosevski (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya).

Donors: Since its establishment, the Fund has received contributions from the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia. It has also received donations from several individuals and non-governmental organizations.

Projects: More and more torture victims are asking for professional help. In 1994 the Fund supported 106 projects all over the world to assist them in coping with the consequences of torture and cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment or punishments. Thousands of others are still in need of medical, psychological, social or financial help.

Financial situation: With requests for assistance totalling more than US$ 5 million, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, at its May 1994 session, was able to make recommendations for half of the amount requested in 114 applications by centres for treatment and assistance to victims of torture and the members of their families.

Needed: A minimum of US$ 100,000 per industrialized country and US$ 10,000 per developing country. There is an urgent need for regular annual contributions as victims of torture may have to be treated for long periods of time and in order to prevent interrupting the activities which the Fund has helped to start up. Also contributions by individuals are greatly appreciated.

Contributions: Can be made at any time by cheque or transfer to:

"United Nations Trust Fund Investment Pool", specifying "for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture" to one of the following accounts of the Fund:

- Chemical Bank, United Nations Headquarters, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA, account No. 015-004473, in United States dollars, or

- Société de Banque Suisse (SBS)
  Case postale 2770, CH 1211 Genève 2, Switzerland

  Accounts:
  CO.590.160.1, in United States dollars, or
  CO.590.160.0, in Swiss francs

Information: Will be given by the secretariat of the Fund, United Nations, Centre for Human Rights, CH-1211 Geneva 10, tel (41) (22) 917 33 94 or 917 33 95, fax (41) (22) 917 01 23 or by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Jaap Walkate, c/o Royal Netherlands Embassy, Avenida Principal 190, Urbanización Sta. Catalina, La Victoria, Casilla 70, Lima 1, Lima, Peru, tel (51-14-761069/761193), fax 756 536.

ANNEX V

Press release issued at the conclusion of the thirteenth session of the Board of Trustees

$2.6 million in grants for victims of torture approved

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture still needs additional resources to meet growing demand

During its thirteenth session, which ended on 27 May 1994, the Board assessed the implementation of the projects subsidized by the Fund and heard 11 persons responsible for 48 of them. Information concerning 166 projects and subprojects was examined, including analysis of narrative, accounting and audit reports on the use of grants made in previous years, as well as requests for grants for ongoing and new projects in 1994 and 1995. On behalf of the Secretary-General, José Ayala Lasso, High Commissioner for Human Rights, has approved recommendations by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture for the funding of 106 projects and subprojects in 60 countries to relieve the suffering of the tens of thousands of victims by obtaining for them medical or psychological support, opportunities for social assistance or economic reintegration and legal or financial assistance involving expenditures of approximately $2.6 million for 1994-1995.

During the session, the United States of America made a pledge of $1.5 million for 1994-1995, increasing their contribution threefold since 1993. That year they had already increased their contribution from US$ 100,000 to US$ 500,000. This enabled the Board to make a second set of recommendations for grants that could be paid once the contribution is received. This would bring the total amount of grants recommended to US$ 3.7 million.

No later than last February, only $800,000 were available for new grants to be recommended by the Board in May. In its resolution 1994/36 of 4 March 1994, a/ the Commission on Human Rights therefore appealed to Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees. The positive replies of a number of Governments have helped improve the financial situation of the Fund. These Governments are the following: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

However, at its thirteenth session, the Board insisted that additional resources were still needed to meet a growing demand totalling more than $5 million in 1993-1994.

Background information

The General Assembly set up the Fund in 1981 to receive voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals for distribution, through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals who have been tortured and their relatives.

The projects subsidized by the Fund fall essentially into the following fields: psychotherapy, medical care, social rehabilitation, and training of professionals and volunteers (doctors, psychologists, physiotherapists, paramedical personnel, social workers, etc.) for specialized treatment of torture victims. In addition to helping victims of torture directly, the Fund has also been able to assist the relatives of the latter with their psychological, economic, legal and social problems, and has contributed to the development and application of suitable treatments for torture victims.

The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General, assisted by a Board of Trustees composed of a Chairman and four members who have wide experience in the field of human rights and serve in their personal capacity. The current members of the Board of Trustees are Jaap Walkate, Chairman (Netherlands), Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica), Ribot Hatano (Japan), Ivan Tosevski (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and S. Amos Wako (Kenya).

Notes

a/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

ANNEX VI

Assisting victims of torture

The struggle by the United Nations against torture began in 1948, when torture was prohibited by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide a/ and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. b/ It was again prohibited in 1966 by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, c/ and in 1984 by the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. d/ Despite these repeated prohibitions under international law, torture is still a widespread phenomenon and there is every reason to continue the struggle for its eradication.

The essence of the Convention against torture is that States parties are under the obligation to take legislative and administrative measures to prevent acts of torture and to declare such acts as offences under criminal law. People who violate the relevant provisions of criminal law shall be prosecuted and, if found guilty, punished. The Committee against Torture was set up under the Convention to monitor the implementation by the States parties of the prohibition of torture. Over 70 States are parties to the Convention. The Commission on Human Rights has also nominated a Special Rapporteur to report on the phenomenon of torture world wide and to respond to reliable allegations of torture which he receives. Many of the victims needing help were tortured because of their activities as lawyers, journalists, trade unionists or leaders of rural workers or because of their work in human rights organizations.

One of the means to mitigate the effects of torture on the victims and their families is to give them medical, psychological, social, legal and economic aid. With this in mind, the General Assembly established, in 1981, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to direct humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to victims of torture and to relatives of such victims anywhere in the world through established channels of assistance. The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the advice of a Board of Trustees consisting of five members with wide experience in the field of human rights.

The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations and the Secretary-General presents annual reports on its activities to the General Assembly and to the Commission on Human Rights. The Fund receives applications for grants from institutions, organizations or groups which have set up specific programmes for assistance to torture victims, such as specialized centres for refugees victims of torture, and non-governmental organizations having medical, social or legal experience in the field. Most of them do not receive government support and therefore look, among other places, to the Fund for financing.

From 1983 to 1994, the Fund has supported more than 100 organizations and financed more than 500 requests for assistance in about 60 countries. Each year, the Board meets for eight days to examine narrative, financial and audit reports on the use of grants made in previous years as well as requests for continuing assistance and new projects. In 1994, 106 projects were approved,

for a total amount of US$ 2.6 million. As in the past, the focus of the Board's recommendations to the Secretary-General has been on supporting projects that provide direct medical, psychological, social, economic, legal or other assistance to torture victims and their family members. The Board has also made recommendations for support of training programmes for health professionals on the techniques of treatment of victims of torture as well as for meetings of health professionals in which they could compare their experiences.

With requests for assistance totalling more than US$ 5 million, half of the required amounts could be granted in 1994. The need for funds increases every year as numerous victims suffer from severe traumas, both physical and mental, and need professional help for many years. What we know from the statements of project leaders to the Board is that, with the support of the Fund, a sizable number of people can be helped to start a new life, to make that life tolerable and to be reinserted in the society in which they live. Such statements are encouraging but do not diminish in the least the need to eliminate torture at the root.

How you can help

The Fund can only give aid to torture victims within the limits of the financial resources at its disposal. Since the Fund is completely dependent on voluntary contributions from Governments, private organizations and individuals, any contribution is most welcome. Assistance recommended by the Board for each project per year ranges between US$ 5,000 and US$ 60,000. Individuals, organizations and Governments are encouraged to make contributions, in the form of a cheque or transfer, specifying "For the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture", to:

- Chemical Bank, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY 10017, USA, Account No. 015-004473, in United States dollars, or

- United Nations Geneva General Fund
  Swiss Bank Corporation,
  P.O. Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland,

  Accounts:
  CO.590.160.1, in United States dollars, or
  CO.590.160.0, in Swiss francs, or

- by cheque to the Cashier's Office, United Nations, room 213, CH-1211 Geneva 10, or

- PTT-Geneva, CCP No. 12-2809-0, in Swiss francs.

Notes

a/ Resolution 260 A (II).

b/ Resolution 217 A (III).

c/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

d/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

ANNEX VII

Copenhagen appeal delivered by the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims of Copenhagen on 28 June 1994

Just a year ago, the World Conference on Human Rights adopted by consensus the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. a/ The 171 participating States "emphasized that one of the most atrocious violations against human dignity is the act of torture, the result of which destroys the dignity and impairs the capability of victims to continue their lives and their activities".

Already in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights b/ stipulated, in its article 5, that "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

It was seven years ago, on 26 June 1987, that the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment c/ came into force.

Unfortunately, we have to recognize that torture today is still practised around the world and that men, women and even children are suffering treatment that is unworthy of our civilized world.

On this occasion I wish to appeal for a definitive end to, and the total eradication of, this practice, which should have long since disappeared.

Today, more than ever before, it is essential to universalize the international legal framework against torture. To that end, I urge all States members of the international community to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

I request the States that are already parties to the Convention to ensure its full implementation. I encourage them to make the declarations recognizing the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider communications submitted by other States Parties or by individuals who claim to be victims of torture.

It is a cause for concern that, to date, only 82 States have ratified the Convention against torture, and it is essential that we do our utmost to make progress towards its universal ratification. Within the framework of my mandate, I am prepared to enter into a dialogue with all States in order to discuss with them the difficulties and obstacles they face in ratifying the Convention.

I should like to re-emphasize that there can be no exception to the prohibition of the use of torture. No exceptional circumstance, be it a state of war, the threat of war or internal conflicts, can justify such an act, which violates the most basic rights of the victim and which debases the person who performs it. The impunity enjoyed by the perpetrator all too often merely adds to the moral suffering of the victim.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture, Mr. Nigel Rodley, as well as to his predecessors, for their unceasing efforts to make the whole world aware of the horrible realities of this scourge and to make recommendations for its complete elimination. I invite all States to cooperate with him, in a spirit of openness and dialogue, and to respond positively and rapidly to his requests for information and his urgent appeals.

Lastly, I wish to pay a tribute to all those who are working selflessly throughout the world to relieve the suffering of torture victims and bring them help and assistance. I am conscious of and grateful for the tireless efforts of hundreds of non-governmental organizations whose main purpose is assistance to and rehabilitation of victims of torture: their work deserves the full appreciation of the United Nations and the international community as a whole. I strongly believe that the physical, psychological and social rehabilitation of persons whose bodies and minds have been marked should be considered as a general international obligation and is a concrete expression of the solidarity that unites peoples.

The Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims of Copenhagen has played a pioneering role in these endeavours and has inspired the creation of a network of such Centres throughout the world. I hereby applaud and encourage its excellent work over the years and pledge my full cooperation in the achievement of its noble purposes.

I therefore appeal to those Governments that are able to do so to contribute or increase their contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture or to contribute directly to the Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture in Copenhagen and elsewhere in the world. As far as the United Nations Fund is concerned, with some $2.5 million per year, it cannot at present respond to the many requests for assistance that it receives. A doubling of contributions, to US$ 5 million by next year and US$ 10 million by the year 2000, would make it possible to multiply activities aimed at effacing the physical and psychological effects of torture.

It is also important that the work of physicians, psychologists and lawyers assisting torture victims be facilitated. I am firmly convinced that, in order to deal effectively with the scourge of torture, the best remedy is prevention. It is therefore essential to strengthen assistance and technical cooperation activities in this area. The training on international human rights standards of the police and armed forces, judges, lawyers and health workers is of crucial importance in that regard.

The international community is now considering a draft Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The adoption of this protocol, intended to establish a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention, is bound to strengthen global efforts to make this scourge disappear once and for all.

The international community is about to enter its third millennium; a complete cessation of the practice of torture would affirm the moral conscience

of humanity and would uphold the most fundamental principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ending torture is the beginning of true respect for the most basic of all rights: the intrinsic dignity and value of each individual. I therefore call on all Governments and those in a position of power and authority to do their utmost to put an end forever to this inhuman practice and truly reaffirm their respect for human beings everywhere on earth.

Notes

a/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 July 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III).

b/ Resolution 217 A (III).

c/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

ANNEX VIII

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - DESCRIPTION DU PROJET - DESCRIPCION DEL PROYECTO

Project/Projet/Proyecto No. P.___

1. Short title:

   Nom abrégé:

   Nombre abreviado:

2. Date submitted

   Date de soumission

   Fecha de sumisión:

3. Countries concerned

   Pays concernés

   Paises interesados:

4. Type of assistance offered/Type d'aide offerte/Tipo de asistencia ofrecida:

   (a) Medical/Médicale/Médica [ ]

   (b) Psychological/Psychologique/Psicológica [ ]

   (c) Social/Social [ ]

   (d) Training of professionals/Formation de professionnels/ Formación de profesionales [ ]

   (e) Meetings/Réunions/Reuniones: [ ]

   (f) Publications/Publicaciones: [ ]

   (g) Research/Recherche/Investigación: [ ]

   (h) Other (specify)/Autres (préciser)/Otros (precisar):

5. Sponsoring organization:

Organisation patronnant le projet:

Organización patrocinadora del proyecto:

6. Organization and person in charge of the project:

Organisation et personne responsable du projet:

Organización y persona responsable del proyecto:

Mailing address: Tel.:

Adresse postale: Fax:

Dirección postal: Telex:

7. Bank of your organization, address, payee, account No.:

Banque de votre organisation, adresse, bénéficiaire, No. de compte:

Banco de su organización, dirección, beneficiario, No. de cuenta:

8. Detailed summary of assistance to be provided to victims of torture:

Résumé détaillé de l'aide à fournir aux victimes de la torture:

Resumen detallado de la ayuda que se prestará a las víctimas de la tortura:

(a) Kind of assistance:

Type d'aide:

Tipo de ayuda:

(b) Number and nationalities of persons assisted:

Nombre et nationalités des personnes aidées:

Número y nacionalidades de las personas objeto de la ayuda:

(c) Geographical area covered:

Aire géographique couverte:

Area geográfica cubierta:

(d) Staff required:

Personnel requis:

Personal que se necesitará:

(e) Envisaged duration and steps of projects:

Durée et étapes envisagées du projet:

Duración y etapas previstas del proyecto:

UNVFVT/FCNUVT/FCVNUVT, c/o Centre for Human Rights/Centre pour les droits de l'homme/Centro de derechos humanos,

UNO/ONU, CH-1211 Genève 10. Fax. (00 41 22) 917 00 99. Telex. 41 29 62. Tel. (00 41 22) 917 33 94, 917 33 95, 917 12 34.

9. Please annex a budget indicating the total amount needed for the whole project, the amount requested from the Fund and its envisaged use.

Veuillez joindre un budget indiquant le montant total du projet, ainsi que le montant demandé au Fonds et son affectation.

Adjunte un presupuesto del gasto total del proyecto, señalando qué parte solicita al Fondo, así como el destino de éste.

Total amount needed for the project: _____ (US$)

Montant total du projet:

Monto global para el proyecto:

Amount requested from the Fund for this project: _____ (US$)

Montant demandé au Fonds pour ce projet:

Monto solicitado al Fondo para el proyecto:

10. Please detail clearly below the part of the project budget you are requesting the Fund to support:

Détaillez ci-dessous la partie du budget affectée à votre projet que vous sollicitez du Fonds:

Detállese la parte del presupuesto destinada a su proyecto que se solicita del Fondo:

11. General budget of your organization:

    Budget général de votre organisation:

    Presupuesto general de su organización:

12. Other sources of financing:

    Autres sources de financement:

    Otras fuentes de financiación:

13. Please indicate if this project is already functioning and if it is a new project or a new aspect of an existing project:

    Veuillez indiquer si ce projet fonctionne déja et s'il s'agit d'un nouveau projet ou d'un nouvel aspect d'un projet existant:

    Detállese si este proyecto ya funciona y si es un proyecto nuevo o si se trata de un aspecto nuevo de un proyecto existente:

14. Please indicate the envisaged starting date:

    Veuillez indiquer la date prévue de démarrage:

    Indíquese la fecha de comienzo prevista:

15. Will you develop this project with other organizations (please specify)?

    Développerez-vous ce projet avec d'autres organisations (veuillez détailler)?

    Sírvase especificar si este proyecto se desarrollará en conjunto con otras organizaciones:

16. Organizations or specialists in the treatment of victims of torture accepting to offer reference for this project:

    Organisations ou spécialistes dans le traitement de victimes de la torture acceptant de servir de référence pour ce projet:

    Organizaciones o especialistas en el tratamiento de víctimas de la tortura que aceptan servir de referencia para este proyecto:

17. The organization/person in charge of the project authorizes the Secretariat to mention the support of the Fund to this project in United Nations documents. Please indicate if, on the contrary, you wish to keep the information confidential.

L'organisation/la personne responsable de ce projet autorise le Secrétariat à mentionner la subvention du Fonds à ce projet dans les documents des Nations Unies. Veuillez préciser si, au contraire, vous souhaitez garder cette information confidentielle.

La organización/la persona responsable del proyecto autoriza a la Secretaría para mencionar la subvención del Fondo otorgada a este proyecto en los documentos de las Naciones Unidas. Sírvase precisar si, por el contrario, usted preferiría guardar esta información de manera confidencial.

18. The Organization/person in charge of the project authorizes the Secretariat, if necessary, to have access to its books relating to the expenses of the project.

L'organisation/la personne responsable du projet autorise le Secrétariat, si nécessaire, à consulter ses livres de comptes pour ce qui concerne les dépenses liées au projet.

La organización/la persona responsable del proyecto autoriza a la Secretaría, si necesario, a consultar los libros de cuentas en lo que respecta los gastos relativos al proyecto.